



**To:** House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members  
**From:** House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Staff  
**Date:** December 5, 2022  
**Subject:** Hybrid Markup of 12 Bills: H.R. 3681, H.R. 5522, H.R. 6032, H.R. 6427, H.R. 6611, H.R. 6720, H.R. 6964, H.R. 7615, H.R. 7918, H.R. 7952, H.R. 8115, and S.314.

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The Natural Resources Committee will hold a hybrid markup of 12 bills on **Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. EST** in room 1324 Longworth House Office Building and via Cisco WebEx. The Committee will consider H.R. 3681 (Soto), H.R. 5522 (Kind), H.R. 6032 (Huffman), H.R. 6427 (Johnson), H.R. 6611 (Keating), H.R. 6720 (Raskin), H.R. 6964 (Strickland), H.R. 7615 (Moore), H.R. 7918 (Keating), H.R. 7952 (Dean), H.R. 8115 (LaMalfa), and S. 314 (Merkley).

Member offices are requested to notify Will Layden ([Will.Layden@mail.house.gov](mailto:Will.Layden@mail.house.gov)) and Baylee Seeman ([Baylee.Seeman@mail.house.gov](mailto:Baylee.Seeman@mail.house.gov)) no later than **4:30 p.m. EST on Wednesday, November 15, 2022**, if their Member intends to participate in person in the hearing room or remotely via his/her laptop from another location. Members may vote either by voice in the hearing room or if participating remotely (while visible).

Submissions for the hearing record must be submitted through the Committee's electronic repository at [HNRCDocs@mail.house.gov](mailto:HNRCDocs@mail.house.gov). Please contact David DeMarco ([David.DeMarco@mail.house.gov](mailto:David.DeMarco@mail.house.gov)) should any technical difficulties arise.

## **I. KEY MESSAGES**

- This markup is among Committee Democrats' belated last opportunities to advance a legislative agenda in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- After cancelling markups on several occasions this year and in the wake of elections in which voters determined a change in the House majority was needed, Committee Democrats have decided to schedule a mark-up for the sole purpose of advancing a few non-controversial bills.
- The markup's agenda is 12 bills, 9 Democrat and 3 Republican, which are all expected to move as part of one UC package.

## II. EXPECTED LEGISLATION

### **H.R. 3681 (Soto) – Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2021**

H.R. 3681, sponsored by Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL) and cosponsored by Representative Bilirakis (R-FL), would direct the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to establish a program to study the short- and long-term causes of sinkholes, including such causes as storms and droughts. H.R. 3681 would require USGS to develop maps of areas at greater risk of sinkhole formation and revise them as needed every five years. Sinkholes are a dangerous natural hazard, created when a ground depression lacks external surface drainage and collects rainwater in the subsurface. The rock in the subsurface gradually dissolves while the surface stays intact for a time, until the dissolved rock reaches a tipping point and causes a collapse. Over the past 15 years, damage from sinkholes have cost an average of \$300 million annually. However, there is no national database of sinkhole damage costs, so the true expense is likely higher than current estimates. H.R. 3681 could reduce the risk to the public and help urban and land planners make development decisions. This bill was passed by the Committee on Natural Resources by Unanimous Consent in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. *The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 3681, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Ashley Nichols ([Ashley.Nichols@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ashley.Nichols@mail.house.gov))

### **H.R. 5522 (Kind) – Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act of 2021**

The federal government spends billions of dollars every year maintaining thousands of buildings, including many that are vacant and unneeded.<sup>1</sup> Each year the federal government wastes about \$2 billion maintaining these unnecessary properties.<sup>2</sup> The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has consistently found that the federal government has done a poor job managing its property and land.<sup>3</sup> Two of the primary challenges identified were “disposing of excess and underutilized property effectively” and “collecting reliable real property data to support decision making.” For example, the Department of the Interior (DOI) uses 26 different financial management systems and over 100 different property systems.<sup>4</sup> This plethora of inaccurate tracking systems illustrates that the government, and much less the public, does not have a full picture of the properties and lands owned by the federal government, which leads to inefficiencies and poor land management.

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<sup>1</sup> Sinclair Broadcast Group, “Inside Your World: The federal government spends billions on empty buildings nationwide”, Mark Hyman, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, <https://wjla.com/news/inside-your-world/inside-your-world-the-federal-government-spends-billions-on-empty-buildings-nationwide>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Government Accountability Office, “Progress on Many High-Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others” February 2017, <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-17-317.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, “Testimony Before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior”, March 2, 2005, <https://www.doi.gov/ocl/budget-request-doi>.

The FLAIR Act seeks to address the current lack of a comprehensive, up-to-date, and accessible inventory of the federal government's land and real property assets. H.R. 5522 would remedy this issue by providing a searchable, sustainable tool by which all real property assets are categorized and updated. A single searchable system would eliminate discrepancies between federal departments that maintain their own separate databases and provide transparency and clarity to the public by allowing everyone to access comprehensive data about all the land owned by the federal government. States and local communities would benefit from a full accounting of surplus federal lands and will be able to pursue additional land exchanges to manage for recreational and economic uses alike. H.R. 5522 is co-led by Ranking Member Westerman and a Senate companion bill was introduced by Senators Kevin Cramer (R-ND) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) as S. 1295. ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 5522, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 6032 (Huffman) - Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam Sacred Lands Act**

H.R. 6032 would place into trust approximately 1,031 acres of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land where the Salmon River meets the Klamath River in Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties, California, for the Karuk Tribe. H.R. 6032 would require that the land taken into trust only be used for traditional and customary uses for the benefit of the tribe. H.R. 6032 would prevent gaming on the land and would require that the land held in trust shall not affect the status or administration of this section of the Klamath River as a wild and scenic river.

The Karuk Tribe uses these lands, known as Katimiîn and Aamekyáaraam in the Karuk language, for the annual world renewal ceremonies. The land is sacred to the tribe and is considered the center of the world in Karuk religious belief. Currently, the tribe has a Special Use Permit with the USFS that allows the tribe access to the grounds for their ceremonies and closes the river during certain times in the summer to facilitate these ceremonies. However, there have been public intrusions during the ceremonies from some individuals rafting the river. A map of the land to be placed into trust can be viewed [here](#). ***The Ranking Member supports the bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 6032, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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## **H.R. 6427 (Johnson) – Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act**

H.R. 6427 would make a boundary adjustment to the Red River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) in Louisiana. The 2000 law that created the Refuge capped the Refuge at a maximum of 50,000 acres of federal lands, waters, and interests within the boundaries identified on a map entitled “Red River National Wildlife Refuge-Selection Area” and dated September 2000.<sup>5</sup> There were three purposes identified for the creation of the Refuge: to restore and conserve native plants and animals, to provide habitat for migratory birds, and to provide technical assistance to private land owners in the restoration of their lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife.<sup>6</sup> Currently, the Refuge consists of 13,070 acres and is made up of four units, which provide habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, songbirds, and other native wildlife species.<sup>7</sup>

H.R. 6427 would modify the Refuge boundary by creating a new map entitled “Red River National Wildlife Refuge Acquisition Boundary” dated November 2021. The new boundary would allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to acquire a 3,300-acre parcel that was recently acquired by Ducks Unlimited. According to bill proponents, the parcel is needed to increase the waterfowl energy days for the Refuge. A waterfowl energy day is essentially the amount of food necessary to feed one bird for one day and it determines the number of waterfowl that can be sustained in a given area for a given amount of time. In 2020, the USFWS revised its objective for the Refuge, aiming for a total of 8.5 million waterfowl energy days.<sup>8</sup> The current footprint of the Refuge supports 2.8 million. This boundary modification to facilitate a subsequent acquisition would support an additional 3 million waterfowl energy days on its own.<sup>9</sup> The bill does not change the 50,000-acre statutory cap. During the hearing on this bill, it was discovered that the map description was incorrect, so an amendment will be offered to resolve this issue.

H.R. 6427 does not have cosponsors. ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 6427, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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<sup>5</sup> Public Law 106-300.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Red River Refuge, <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/red-river>; Restoring a Legacy at Red River National Wildlife Refuge: A Forestland Restoration Partnership between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and The Conservation Fund, [https://www.conservationfund.org/images/projects/files/Red\\_River\\_National\\_Wildlife\\_Refuge\\_Project\\_Implementation\\_Report\\_2019\\_PIR\\_and\\_Monitoring\\_Report.pdf](https://www.conservationfund.org/images/projects/files/Red_River_National_Wildlife_Refuge_Project_Implementation_Report_2019_PIR_and_Monitoring_Report.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> <https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/DownloadFile/175323>

<sup>9</sup> These numbers were calculated by the USFWS Southeast Region’s waterfowl ecologist and Red River National Wildlife Refuge staff using a Service-developed waterfowl energy model that calculates the energetic carrying capacity of different management practices and types (e.g., agricultural crops, bottomland forest, etc.).

**H.R. 6611 (Keating) – To authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union**

H.R. 6611 would authorize the Embassy of France to establish a commemorative work on federal land in Washington, D.C., to honor Jean Monnet. Jean Monnet, a noted French diplomat and entrepreneur considered to be a founding father of what is now the European Union, who was born in Cognac, France, in 1888.<sup>10</sup> Throughout his lengthy career, Monnet ardently supported European integration.<sup>11</sup> Following World War I, Monnet helped create the League of Nations and was later appointed Deputy Secretary-General.<sup>12</sup> Later, in 1943, Monnet became part of the French Committee of National Liberation, the de-facto French government-in-exile in Algiers.<sup>13</sup> Monnet also prepared the ‘Schuman Declaration’ on behalf of the French government, which proposed the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community to pool coal and steel production to increase living standards across Europe and make war materially impossible.<sup>14</sup>

H.R. 6611 would require the Embassy of France to follow the standards established by the Commemorative Works Act (CWA, 40 U.S.C. ch. 89), in establishing this new commemorative work. No federal funds would be used in the creation or maintenance of the commemorative work. The Embassy of France plans to use the authorization to install a bench within Rock Creek Park.<sup>15</sup> Monnet enjoyed long walks through Rock Creek Park near his residence and stated that his walks through Rock Creek Park helped him think of and develop plans to achieve peace and unity in Europe.<sup>16</sup> Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) introduced a Senate companion bill, S. 3579. *The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 6611, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Aniela Butler ([aniela@mail.house.gov](mailto:aniela@mail.house.gov)).

**H.R. 6720 (Raskin) – To authorize the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs**

H.R. 6720 would authorize the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work on federal land in Washington, D.C., to honor Thomas Paine, a

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<sup>10</sup> European Parliament Research Service, “Jean Monnet, ‘the inspirer’ One of Europe’s founding fathers,” Philippe Perchoc, Nov. 2017, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/614603/EPRS\\_BRI\(2017\)614603\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/614603/EPRS_BRI(2017)614603_EN.pdf).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> European Union, “Schuman declaration May 1950,” [https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu/1945-59/schuman-declaration-may-1950\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu/1945-59/schuman-declaration-may-1950_en).

<sup>15</sup> Senator Chris Coons, “Sens. Coons, Boozman, French Caucus introduce legislation for a commemorative bench in Rock Creek Park in memory of diplomat Jean Monnet,” Feb. 4, 2022, <https://www.coons.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sens-coons-boozman-french-caucus-introduce-legislation-for-a-commemorative-bench-in-rock-creek-park-in-memory-of-diplomat-jean-monnet>

<sup>16</sup> *Id.*

philosopher and patriot. Paine was a prominent political writer of the Revolutionary Era and is perhaps best known for his pamphlet *Common Sense*, which argued for the necessity of declaring independence from Great Britain. In addition to *Common Sense*, Paine authored various pamphlets and books regarding political and theological ideas throughout his life. H.R. 6720 would require the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to follow the standards established by the CWA in establishing this new commemorative work. H.R. 6720 would also prohibit the use of federal funds for creating the commemorative work. ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 6720, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

Staff contact: Aniela Butler ([aniela@mail.house.gov](mailto:aniela@mail.house.gov)).

### **H.R. 6964 (Strickland) – To authorize leases of up to 99 years for lands held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation**

H.R. 6964 would amend the Long-Term Leasing Act (LTLA, 25 U.S.C. 415(d)) to authorize the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation to lease its trust land for terms up to 99 years. The LTLA provides a framework for lands held in trust or subject to a restriction an alienation to be leased by the Indian owner, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Congress has amended the LTLA more than 50 times to adjust the terms and conditions of leases of Indian lands, and to authorize specific Indian land or tribes to lease land for a term of up to 99 years, subject to approval of the Secretary.

According to the tribe, its economic development activities fund its government programs and helps to diversify its economic interests. The tribe is interested in developing American supply chain infrastructure, by making improvements to an existing assemblage of land suitable for a warehouse facility located on the tribe’s trust land. The financing required for the project requires a lease agreement term of at least 86 years.<sup>17</sup> ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 6964, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **H.R. 7615 (Moore) – LODGE Act**

Skyrocketing housing costs and overcrowding in the cities and towns adjacent to our parks, known as “gateway communities,” is causing a severe housing shortage for NPS employees, leaving many parks understaffed in peak seasons. The rapidly rising cost of housing is impacting recruitment and retention of both NPS and private sector service employees that rely on available and affordable housing. The lack of available and affordable housing for employees has

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.indian.senate.gov/sites/default/files/Chehalis%20Prepared%20Statement%20on%20S.3773.pdf>



contributed to one of the most pressing issues facing our national parks, overcrowding of visitors. In 2021, 44 units of the NPS set a record for recreation visits.<sup>18</sup> While increased visitation is beneficial to both NPS and local economies, surges in tourism also cause extreme overcrowding at many of our nation’s most iconic parks, diminishing visitor experiences through long wait times and congestion at popular destinations. The lack of affordable housing is exacerbating overcrowding, as NPS and private sector job openings are going unfilled for months due in large part to the lack of available and affordable housing.<sup>19</sup> This is leaving many key positions both in and outside of parks understaffed, contributing to longer wait times and less flexibility within parks.

In 1996, Congress provided NPS with authority to enter into public-private partnerships to develop new housing and reduce the need for federal appropriations. Unfortunately, this authority is largely unutilized due to limitations in statute that make partnership opportunities unattractive to housing developers. H.R. 7615 would amend current law to provide NPS with improved authorities to enter into innovative partnerships with non-federal entities and other federal agencies for the development of employee housing. The LODGE Act was developed in consultation with NPS to increase the availability and affordability of housing in and adjacent to our nation’s parks. The LODGE Act would reduce costs to the taxpayer, provide modern housing for both NPS employees and the private sector to rent, and improve NPS’s ability to hire and retain employees by allowing 1) non-NPS staff and NPS staff to share housing; 2) NPS and developers to negotiate rental rates; 3) developers to directly collect rents from tenants; 4) NPS to enter into non-competitive housing agreements under certain conditions; and 5) upfront federal investment that reduces long-term costs to the developer. ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 7615, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).

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### **[H.R. 7918 \(Keating\) – Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2022](#)**

The Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act would establish a federal grant program to provide funding for the recovery, care, and treatment of stranded sea turtles in the United States, data collection for scientific research on such turtles and facility operating costs.

All six sea turtle species found in U.S. waters are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). In the United States, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have shared jurisdiction for recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered sea turtles. NOAA oversees conservation and recovery of sea turtles in the marine environment, while the

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<sup>18</sup> National Park Service, “Most famous national parks set visitation records in 2021,” Feb. 16, 2022, <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/most-famous-national-parks-set-visitation-records-in-2021.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> Wall Street Journal, “Ketchum, Idaho, Has Plenty of Available Jobs, but Workers Can’t Afford Housing,” Dan Frosch, July 7, 2021, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/ketchum-idaho-has-plenty-of-available-jobs-but-workers-cant-afford-housing-11625659200>

USFWS leads the conservation and recovery of these animals on nesting beaches.<sup>20</sup> NOAA's John H. Prescott Grant program has provided some funding to assist stranded sea turtles.<sup>21</sup>

Sea turtles can become stranded on coasts due to a number of factors, including cold-stun events.<sup>22</sup> The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (Network) is a consortium of 50 federal, state and private partners established to respond to stranded turtles.<sup>23</sup> According to the Network, eight of these partners cared for more than 2,000 sea turtles over the last two years at a cost of \$5 million per year.<sup>24</sup> The National Aquarium, the New England Aquarium, and the South Carolina Aquarium established programs aimed at recovering and rehabilitating stranded sea turtles and have engaged in a campaign to enact H.R. 7918.<sup>25</sup> Each of these entities, as well as other non-federal partners in the Network, would likely be eligible for grant funding under the bill.

H.R. 7918 would authorize \$5 million annually in grant funding for the next five fiscal years. H.R. 7918 would require the Secretary of Commerce to distribute the grants equitably on a regional basis. An amendment in the nature of a substitute will be offered by Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) to resolve issues involving volunteer liability, reduce overhead expenditures to three percent, and other matters.

H.R. 7918 has four cosponsors, including Resident Commissioner Jennifer Gonzalez Colon (R-PR). *The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.*

The hearing memo for H.R. 7918, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).  
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### **H.R. 7952 (Dean) – Valley Forge Park Realignment Permit and Promise Act**

H.R. 7952 is a bipartisan bill that would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue a right-of-way permit to relocate a natural gas distribution pipeline segment in the Valley Forge National Historical Park located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. This iconic park is the location of a Revolutionary War encampment and contains numerous significant cultural and natural resources, including 40 historic monuments and memorials as well as several diverse habitats including deciduous forests, tall-grass meadows, wetlands, and riparian zones with more than

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<sup>20</sup> NOAA, Fisheries, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/sea-turtles>.

<sup>21</sup> The John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program report (FY 2001-2010), <https://repository.library.noaa.gov/view/noaa/3933> at 22.

<sup>22</sup> National Aquarium, *Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act*, <https://aqua.org/support/conservation/save-wildlife-and-habitats/sea-turtle-rescue-assistance-act>.

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*



315 species of animals and 730 species of plants.<sup>26</sup> Relocation of the pipeline segment is needed because the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is planning to realign a road at the Park’s entrance to a new location within the Park boundary, which will require moving the utilities in the existing roadbed to the new roadbed. This project is part of a larger effort by PennDOT to improve the area surrounding the Park. Although NPS is authorized to permit the relocation of certain utilities such as electric or broadband, NPS is prohibited by statute from permitting the relocation of the segment of natural gas pipeline under the current roadbed. If the pipeline relocation is not permitted, this issue could lead to further project delays and the need for additional resources.<sup>27</sup> ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 7952, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).  
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### **H.R. 8115 (LaMalfa) – Recreation and Public Purposes Tribal Parity Act**

H.R. 8115 would amend current law to add Indian tribes to the list of entities eligible to lease or purchase public lands from DOI pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP, 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.). The R&PP authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to sell or lease public lands for recreational or public purposes to state and local governments and to qualifying non-profit organizations. The R&PP has enabled these entities to buy or lease public lands for use as campgrounds, schools, fire houses, law enforcement facilities, municipal facilities, hospitals, parks, and fairgrounds.

Since the R&PP’s passage in 1926 and subsequent revision in 1954, Congress has continually acknowledged and strengthened tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA, 25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), Congress gave Indian tribes the right to acquire excess and surplus property of federal agencies. H.R. 8115 would continue the recognition of tribal sovereignty and self-determination by adding Indian tribes to the list of eligible entities to purchase or lease federal lands pursuant to the R&PP. ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for H.R. 8115, prepared by Committee Republican staff may be viewed [here](#).  
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<sup>26</sup> National Park Service, “Valley Forge National Historical Park What Happened at Valley Forge,” <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/historyculture/valley-forge-history-and-significance.htm>, accessed on June 9, 2022. National Park Service, “Valley Forge National Historical Park Historic Buildings,” <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/historyculture/historic-buildings.htm>, accessed on June 8, 2022. National Park Service, “Valley Forge National Historical Park Animals,” <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/nature/animals.htm>, accessed on June 8, 2022. National Park Service, “Valley Forge National Historical Park Plants,” <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/nature/plants.htm>, accessed on June 8, 2022

<sup>27</sup> Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, “H.R. 7952 – The Valley Forge Park Realignment Permit and Promise Act.”

### **S. 314 (Merkley) – Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act**

S. 314 would repeal the 1965 Klamath Judgment Fund Act (Pub. Law 89-224) which provided for the disposition of judgment funds for the Klamath and Modoc Tribes and Yahooskin Band of Snake Indians (collectively the Klamath Tribes). S. 314 would also direct the Secretary of the Interior to disburse to the Klamath Tribes any balance of any funds that were set aside for legal fees, administration, and per capita trust accounts. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), this bill affects approximately \$600,000 remaining in the Klamath Judgment Fund for approximately 200 tribal members or their next of kin that DOI says it cannot locate. It is unclear whether enactment of this bill might give rise to claims from individuals who say they have a right to these monies. ***The Ranking Member supports this bill, and it is expected to move by unanimous consent.***

The hearing memo for S. 314 prepared by Committee Republican staff in the 116th Congress may be viewed [here](#).

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